

EPA Regulated Products and PFAS Including Pesticides

Presented to:

Chem Watch

PFAS Updates 2021 Conference

June 23, 2021



Overview

- Agency priorities
- Activities related to chemical regulation
- Complex scientific issues
- Current activities



Agency Priorities

 Memo issued in April 2021 by EPA Administrator Regan

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2021-04/documents/perand polyfluoroalky) substances.memo signed.pdf

- Highlights
 - National primary drinking water regulation
 - Wastewater treatment for 29 PFAS
 - EPA Council on PFAS (ECP)
 - Build on 2019 EPA PFAS Action Plan
- General Info https://www.epa.gov/pfas



EPA Council on PFAS - Focus

- Develop multi-year strategy (2021-2025)
 - Initial recommendations within 100 days
- Coordination on regional and cross media issues to better assist state, local and tribal communities on PFAS issues
- Coordinate and maximize available funding for clean up activities
- Enhance engagement with partners to ensure consistent communications



Activities Related to Chemical Regulation

- EPA addresses chemicals issues in its Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)
 - Key statues
 - TSCA Toxic Substances Control Act
 - FIFRA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
- Notable Activities
 - Pesticide container issues

https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/plas-packaging

Section 21 Petition – Cape Fear River

https://www.sps.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/support-documents-ofas-teating-section-21-pelition

- TRI Listing
- Section 8 Rule



Pesticide Container Issue

General information is publicly available

https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging

- Pesticide program laboratory developed analytical methods and is conducting testing
 - 8 PFAS identified so far on website
- NGO Citations

https://www.peer.org/?s=pfas https://www.eenews.net/assets/2021/03/26/document_gw_01.pdf

Evaluating for industrial chemicals as well



Section 21 Petition

 Multiple organizations submitted petition in October 2020 focused on levels in the Cape Fear river in North Carolina

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-10/documents/chemours_plas_testing_petition_final.pdf

- Identified 54 PFAS chemicals
 - Asked EPA to require testing
- EPA denied petition because the facts necessary to determine for each of the 54 PFAS were insufficient to justify testing



Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)

Background information on TRI is available

https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program

- Chemicals are listed because they have acute or chronic human health effects or can cause adverse environmental effects
- 172 PFAS added based on NDAA for FY2020

https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/list-plas-added-tri-ridas

 Additional chemicals being screened for possible future addition



Section 8 Proposed Rule

- Will require manufacturers and importers to report information for many PFAS
 - Uses, production volumes, disposal, exposures and effects
- Will enhance EPA's ability to characterize PFAS use and manufacturing
- Will help focus EPA's PFAS research, monitoring and regulatory efforts
- TSCA Section 8(a)(7)



Complex Scientific Issue

 Definition of PFAS is unsettled with multiple approaches, the OCSPP working definition is:

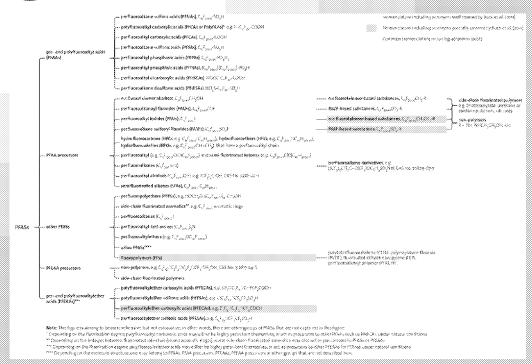
"a structure that contains the unit R-CF2-CF(R')(R"), where R, R', and R" do not equal "H" and the carbon-carbon bond is saturated (note: branching, heteroatoms, and cyclic structures are included)"

https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging

- Definition impacts the universe of chemicals for consideration
- Level of supporting data ranges from minimal to more heavily studied
- Exposure is related to a large number of conditions of use/scenarios
- Varied hazard profiles are anticipated



Categories Add To Complexity





Current Activities

- OCSPP is coordinating with the EPA and external organizations as appropriate
- Laboratory efforts on container issues
- Involved in scoping and data gathering activities
 - Identify chemicals of interest across activities
 - Group by chemical category
 - Identify available data for each
- Testing strategy development
- EPA Council on PFAS



Contact Info:

Jeff Dawson Science Advisor EPA/OCSPP Dawson jeff@epa.gov 703-305-7329